

Our Taiwan A Taiwan China Trade War?

By Staff Our Taiwan writer Sean Zhu, Rocus Liu

The General Administration of Customs of China announced on February 25 that Taiwanese pineapples are infested with pests and diseases, and announced that it would suspend imports into mainland China from March 1.

This ban immediately caused heated discussions in Taiwan. Labelled a "pineapple chaos" by the Taiwan media, the issue continued to burn in Taiwan, and debated simmered about whether Taiwan's agricultural products were overly dependent on China's single market, and whether the ban was commercial or political interference.

About 10% of Taiwanese pineapples are exported, and about 90% of the exports go to China, accounting for about 150 million U.S. dollars in trade volume.

In Taiwan, in addition to pineapple cakes, pineapples are a popular fruit snack. Starting in February each year, harvesting starts in Pingtung, the southernmost agricultural county on the island, and extends to the north until July and August.

The production season had just begun, and the suspension of imports of pineapples from China has greatly affected exports.

Taiwan's general public opinion also began to discuss the issue of a Taiwanese agricultural product "export industry chain" because of the ban.

Mainland China is the largest market for

Taiwan's agricultural exports, accounting for almost 90% of Taiwan's export orders. Recently, former Kaohsiung Mayor Han Guoyu accelerated export of agricultural products to the Chinese mainland. Tourists bought local products (pineapple cakes, etc.) in Taiwan



Taiwan pineapples

with the slogan "Goods go out, people come in, Kaohsiung makes a fortune." .

But now, with the dismissal of Han Guoyu and high tension between the two



President Tsai visits a Kaohsiung pineapple field to sell pineapples

sides of the Taiwan Strait, China has been able to produce more crops. The outside world believes that the pineapple incident may be just the beginning.

In response to the pineapple turmoil,

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen launched the "Eat Pineapple for All" campaign. Many large business groups and organizations (such as Taiwan's high-speed rail) have adopted pineapple as a food for consumption, and have said that they will do their best to help farmers tide over the difficulties. The United States' highest administrative unit in Taiwan, the American Association in Taiwan (AIT), also joined in solidarity, making this matter even more political.

In fact, Taiwan's agricultural products have long been closely related to mainland China, and China has been Taiwan's largest agricultural export market for many years. Last year, China banned the import of Taiwanese processed meat because of Taiwan's expansion of imports of American pigs.

Regardless of whether there are political or commercial factors at play, this matter has caused a new debate in Taiwan on whether the "export industry refinement" of agricultural products can be decoupled from China. In particular, agricultural expertise is not as difficult to replicate as semiconductor technology.

From the standpoint of farmers themselves, to avoid relying on a single export market or political interference, these makers need more business thinking to ensure their income is stable.

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Travel Bubble: Pack up your things, we're going to Palau!

By staff writer Luke Yeh

Do you miss the days of travel abroad? Whether sunbathing at the beach or skiing in the Alps, with COVID, going on holiday seems to have happened a century ago. Because of the virus, countries have locked their borders, and everyone is staying home.

But one location that is still open to Taiwanese travelers is Palau. With the creation of a travel bubble between Taiwan and Palau, the opportunity is here again. It is said that the president of Palau, Surangel Whipps, will come to Taiwan to discuss the travel bubble. What is a travel bubble? It means countries with low virus risk can open to each other's visitors, and allow tourists, students, business people, etc. to enter without quarantine restrictions.



Beautiful Palau

Compared to other countries, life has remained normal in Taiwan. But with quarantines and social distancing, many Taiwanese people crave travel to new places, to meet new people and be free of COVID.

Palau has not had serious problems with COVID. The situation there is even better than in Taiwan, which as readers know has been a global success story. Thus, it has been agreed that Taiwan and Palau can create a travel bubble.

The Taiwan Central Epidemic Command Center confirmed that it has discussed this with the ministry of foreign affairs and the government of Palau. Although it has not formally passed, it is believed that the Taiwan government will open group travel with Palau. Independent travel will still be forbidden.

Moreover, Taiwan and Palau are discussing the establishment of a tourist Verification Center (TVC) to make the immigration process more convenient. This can allow travelers to have a diagnosis in hospitals or medical centers before leaving their

country, after which they upload the test results to the TVC directly for entry and exit verification. Taiwan will designate several large medical centers in the northern, central, and southern regions for this process. Taiwan is also in the process of creating such travel with other nations, such as South Korea and Macao.

So pack up your things and get ready to travel, Palau is waiting for you!

Art: bing.com/images



CHILDREN'S DAY: A DAY FOR CHILDREN, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

By staff writers Jasmine Liu, Amy Hung

Children's Day began in November 1949. The Women International Democratic Federation decided that June 1st would be International Children's Day, in order to commemorate the massacre in Lidice, Czech Republic on June 10, 1942. Children who died in the tragedy and all children in the world who had died in war were recognized and honored on this day.

The Lidice massacre was the complete destruction of the village of Lidice, in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, now the Czech Republic, in June 1942 on orders from Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Himmler. All men in the village were killed and women and children were deported to concentration camps.

Although the reasons for celebrating Children's Day in all countries are similar, there are some differences in the dates and methods by which the holiday is celebrated. Some countries maintain the original date and traditional holiday methods, while others have made changes based on local traditions and goals.

In Singapore, October 1st is recognized as Children's Day. On the holiday, Singapore's largest national amusement park has formulated a special rule for all children, which is that children need to buy a full ticket, but adults only need to buy a half ticket, so that children can experience the feelings of being an adult. The feeling of being an adult can be a symbol of maturity for children.

In Brazil, August 15 is Children's Day, as well as "National Epidemic Preven-

tion Day" (perhaps notable given current conditions in the world). On this day, doctors from all over the country must see children and administer an inactivated polio vaccine for children under the age of 5 (inactivated polio vaccine is one of the common polio vaccines, and the only one



Child being vaccinated

used in the United States for children). This indicates how

the government is concerned about the health of children.

In Taiwan, April 4th is Children's Day. On the holiday, the Ministry of Education



sends small gifts to children under the age of 12, and family members take their children out to play in order to cultivate parent-child time.

Various days are celebrated in the United States, but the holiday has never been made a national holiday, and generally it is not celebrated widely.

Several recent initiatives have added to the importance of Children's Day. The United Nations Children's Fund has worked to meet aims of the Millennium Development Goals that apply to children, to help children and protect their rights. In September 2012, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon led an initiative for the education of children. His aims included enabling all children to be able to attend school, a goal by 2015. Universal Children's Day has been recognized not just as a day to celebrate children for who they are, but to bring awareness to children around the globe that have experienced violence in forms of abuse, exploitation, and discrimination.

Canada co-chaired the World Summit for children in 1990. This added to the UN Secretary-General's report We the Children: a review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children. We can thus see that the significance of Children's Day exceeds the importance that everyone attaches to children, because the quality of children's lives is related to the development of a country, and a happy childhood is related to the growth quality of children. One day, all children will grow up. A happy childhood will become the motivating force for a positive adulthood, and help children overcome setbacks and serve others. This holiday is not only a happy holiday, but also a reminder of the importance of children.

Art: bing.com/images,



Water puppetry in Vietnam: A traditional art form

By staff Art Walk writers Sophia Chen, Jolie Li

Water puppetry (the form of using puppets to act on water) is considered a unique,

intangible cultural feature of the Vietnamese nation, a long-standing traditional folk theatrical art form in the region.

According to history books, water puppetry began in 1121 (Ly dynasty). It originated in the villages of the Red River Delta of North Viet Nam.

Water puppetry art is a cultural specialty indigenous to the Vietnamese people. In Vietnam's water puppet oeuvre, there are 30 traditional and hundreds of modern performances conveying folk tales and the daily life of Vietnamese people. There are stories about rice farming, fishing and Vietnamese village festivals.

Features of water puppetry

Water puppetry is different from ordinary puppetry. People use the water surface as a stage, providing a symmetrical structure representing the roof of the house in rural areas of Vietnam. Behind a backdrop are decorated flags, fans, elephants, and gateways.

The wooden puppet is carved with its

own stylized lines, then honed, polished and decorated with many different colors to enhance the lines and personality of each character.

The most typical character is Uncle Teu, with a round body, and a funny, optimistic smile.



The water puppeteers stand behind the screen to control the puppets. They control each pole, or snatch the puppets with external or underwater ropes. The water puppet's success depends on body movement, acting as its play. Water puppetry must have music. Music



Chu Teu - The spirit of Vietnamese water puppetry

controls speed, holds rhythm, guides movements, and creates atmosphere with traditional rhythms playing a key role. Water puppet music usually includes "Chèo" tunes or

Northern Delta folk songs.

Water puppetry in Vietnam today

Water puppetry was once only seen in Vietnam and China, but according to French sinologist J. Pim-pa-ne-au, (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris) water puppetry has disappeared in China and today "only exists in Vietnam." Currently in Vietnam, there are six professional puppet groups, These are located in Hanoi, Hai Phong, Ho Chi Minh City, Dak Lak and Quang Tri. There are also dozens of water puppet wards in many localities of the Red River Delta.

Over the years, many Vietnamese water puppet troupes have attended international puppet festivals and have won many high awards. They have attracted the attention of audiences in many countries. With the efforts of the Vietnamese water puppet industry, this art is being protected and developed to earn its stature in the national cultural heritage. Hopefully, water puppetry will continue to be Vietnam's pride in the international arena.

Art: <http://review.siu.edu.vn/thanglongwater-puppet.com/lich-su-mua-roi-viet-nam/>, Steven C. Price—Wikipedia.